



***Conservation International's work in the Brazilian Amazon. Patty Baiao, Director of Amazon Programs
March 10, 2011 – Brown Bag Lunch – Monsanto 12-1***
Conservation International (CI) has been working in the Brazilian Amazon for over 10 years. The Amazon is the largest tropical forest in the world, harboring extraordinary biodiversity and providing essential ecosystem services, such as Carbon storage, for the entire world. This amazing forest is also home to over 20

million people. CI's work has focused on demonstrating that people need nature to thrive. We are creating green economies in this region, in order to promote social and economic development while preserving the region's natural capital. To do that, we have a strong science-based approach and have established partnerships at all levels, from local and traditional communities, to state governments, to large corporations.

Our mission is:

"Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity".

Patty Baiao, a PhD graduate of UM-SL has returned to her native Brazil and leads conservation efforts from Belem, Brazil, which is located on the equator near the mouth of the Amazon.

These efforts have been unbelievably successful in stopping rainforest destruction. They have created local interest groups consisting of all the local stakeholders from indigenous peoples to towns and cities to large corporations. These multi-ethnic and multi-background groups come up with the communal land management plans that have not only stopped but reversed the destruction of rainforest in much of Amazonia. They have also been very successful with trading carbon credits on the global market.

– Patty Parker, Des Lee Professor of Zoological Studies.